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sellated epithelium, but corresponding more to what Mr. Goodsir has termed *germinal membrane*. From all these facts the author concludes that the proper office of this structure is to secrete synovia; an office which Clopton Havers had assigned to them as long ago as the year 1691, although his opinion has not been generally adopted by later physiologists.

“Description of a Process for extracting the Palladium which exists in combination with the Gold of the Gongosocho and other Mines in the Brazils.” By Percival N. Johnson, Esq., in a letter to the President, by whom it is communicated to the Society.

The process consists in melting the gold, obtained from its matrix by the ordinary processes of stamping and washing, with three times its weight of silver, granulating it in cold water, and refining it by the process of quartation, or separation of its alloys by nitric acid. The nitric solution contains the silver, palladium, copper, and a small proportion of iron and lead.

May 14, 1846.

The MARQUIS OF NORTHAMPTON, President, in the Chair.

Contributions to Terrestrial Magnetism. No. VII. By Lieut.-Colonel Sabine, R.A., For. Sec. R.S.

From the discovery which was made of the non-coincidence of the locality of the maximum magnetic intensity, within the Arctic circle, with that in which the magnetic direction is vertical, it followed that the generally prevailing opinions respecting the distribution of magnetic force at the surface of the earth were erroneous, and that even the broad outline of the picture of terrestrial magnetism required to be recast. For the purpose of obtaining sufficiently copious and accurate materials, by means of which so desirable an object could be accomplished, the British Association for the Advancement of Science requested, in the year 1835, a report to be prepared, in which the state of our knowledge, collected from a great variety of sources, with regard to the variations of the magnetic force at different parts of the earth's surface, should be reviewed, and properly discussed, and suggestions offered as to the best means of extending the inquiry. In the report so obtained, it was recommended that magnetic surveys of that portion of the North American Continent, which is comprised within certain isodynamic lines, should be procured. The present paper contains the results of an expedition towards the accomplishment of this object, recommended by the President and Council of the Royal Society to be undertaken under the auspices and with the assistance of the Hudson's Bay Company. Lieutenant Lefroy, of the Royal Artillery, who had received an appointment to the Toronto Observatory,

with a special view to this survey, was entrusted with the conduct of an expedition in conformity with that recommendation.

The author gives a circumstantial narrative of the expedition, together with minute details of the instruments employed, and the methods of observation adopted; and extensive tables of the observations themselves, both as regards intensity and inclination, at the different stations where they were made, occupying altogether about 120 folio pages of manuscript.

It results from the calculations founded on the data furnished by these observations, that the geographical position of the point of maximum intensity, where its amount is 1.88, is $52^{\circ} 19' 3''$ north latitude, and $268^{\circ} 01'$ longitude. The angle which the major axis of the ellipse makes with the parallel of geographical latitude is $57^{\circ} 49' 5''$; and the values of the semi-axes of the ellipse of 1.875 are 290 and 110 geographical miles respectively.

May 28, 1846.

The MARQUIS OF NORTHAMPTON, President, in the Chair.

“An Account of the desquamation and change of colour in a Negro of Upper Guinea, West Africa.” By the Rev. Thomas S. Savage, M.D., Corr. Member of the Boston Natural History Society, &c. Communicated by Richard Owen, Esq., F.R.S.

The subject of this narrative, named Tahtoo Duari, is a member of the Grebo tribe, the aboriginal inhabitants of Cape Palmas and its vicinity. His parents were members of the same tribe and natives of the same region. The father was of a decidedly black complexion, while the mother was what is termed *yellow*, the two extremes observable in the tribe, and between which there is found every variety of shade. In March 1844, when about twenty-five years of age, Tahtoo was attacked with a quotidian ague, having previously been in perfect health. The febrile symptoms subsided in the course of a week, but were followed by a general desquamation of the cuticle, leaving the subjacent skin of a dingy yellow hue. A month afterwards, the same process, preceded by a similar febrile attack, recurred, and was followed by still greater whiteness of the newly-formed skin, resulting in the complete conversion of a negro to a white man, retaining the characteristic features and hair of an Ethiopian. This change was accompanied with great sensibility in the skin to the heat of the sun and of fire, exposure to which readily excited irritation, and even inflammation; but the general health soon became completely re-established. In the course of three months, subsequently to this change, numerous spots of a chestnut-brown colour made their appearance, first on the wrists, then on the back of the arms, head and neck, and successively on the other parts of the body, forming by their extension dark patches of various sizes; which, being scattered over the